



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wasatch-Cache
National
Forest

Salt Lake Ranger District
6944 South 3000 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121
(801) 943-1794

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Reply to: 1950

DIVISION OF
OIL, GAS & MINING

Date: November 19, 1992

NOTE: We have recently changed the Salt Lake Ranger District phone number. The new phone number is 801/943-1794. The new FAX number is 801/943-1897. Our address remains 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121.

Dear Friend:

I am writing to seek your input on several projects that we are currently considering.

1. Murray City is planning to replace a water pipeline in lower Little Cottonwood Creek that is part of a hydroelectric generating system. They are proposing to replace the existing 24" diameter pipeline with 48" diameter pipe. The new line will be in the same general location as the existing line. The pipeline lies partly on private property and partly on National Forest System lands. However, Whitmore Oxygen Company holds a perpetual easement which specifically allow them to replace the pipeline. Due to the specific legal rights granted in the easement, the decision to be made by the Forest Service covers only temporary roads to be built from Little Cottonwood Canyon Road (Highway 210) to the pipeline to afford access for construction equipment, several staging areas which would be used to temporarily store equipment and supplies during construction, and possible minor realignments of short sections of the pipeline. All access roads and staging areas would be revegetated after use.

There is an opportunity with this project to move parts of the pipeline away from the creek, and place it under an old road in the area. There is also the opportunity to upgrade the old road and existing trails in the area for recreation use. Hikers and mountain bikers currently use the area.

2. Alta United Mine Company has applied for permits for two separate projects. The first is a renewal of an existing permit for the South Hecla Mine building. This is the building located on the ski slopes at Alta, under the Wildcat chairlift, near the base of the hill. The building has been in place, in different forms, for 80 years. Also included are a buried sewer line, water line, access road, tailings piles, mine portal and underground mine facilities. Alta United Mine Company owns the mineral rights, and the Forest Service retains ownership of the surface. Forest Service mining regulations state, "All buildings, camps, equipment, and other structures shall be removed from the land within 1 year from date of completion or abandonment of the operation." The mine has been inactive for several years, with the building used primarily for housing for Alta Ski Lifts employees. The permit application also states the intent to use the building to establish the Center for Snow Science at Alta.

The second is for construction of a tunnel to access the Bay City Mine. The town of Alta draws their water supply from this mine, and one access tunnel is in place in the upper Alta Ski Lifts parking lot. Alta United Mines has stated that the equipment placed in the tunnel by the town of Alta in connection with

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their water system unacceptably restricts access to the mine. Alta United Mines also states that the existing access tunnel is in a deteriorating condition and that it would benefit the town of Alta, as well as Alta United Mines, to have a second tunnel in place before the first one eventually collapses. The new tunnel entrance would access the tunnel well away from the town of Alta's water supply, so contamination would not be expected to occur.


3. The Salt Lake Ranger District is proposing to construct a picnic area at the Donut Falls Trailhead along the Cardiff Fork Road in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The area receives heavy recreation use, which has resulted in resource damage, especially along the stream. Approximately eight picnic tables will be placed in the area, three along the stream. Three of the eight picnic tables would be accessible to people using wheelchairs. We are proposing construction of footbridges, stream rehabilitation, new restrooms, and general restoration of the area. The existing parking would be used, accommodating twenty-one vehicles. We expect to begin analysis for this project in December, with a decision expected in early spring.

4. We have received proposals from several companies for outfitter guide operations on the Salt Lake Ranger District. These companies propose to guide hikers, rock climbers, and back country skiers in various locations. One proposal includes constructing a yurt in Mill Creek Canyon to be used year-round for retreats. We have not taken action specifically on any of these requests yet and are looking at ways to gauge demand for these services.

These are only proposals, and no decision will be made until we have considered public input and looked at environmental effects. Please send any comments, concerns, or suggestions to District Ranger, Salt Lake Ranger District, 6944 South 3000 East, Salt Lake City, Utah 84121 by December 13, 1992.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Barbara Schuster at the above address, or by phone at 943-1794. Thank you for your interest in our planning process.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL SIEG
District Ranger